

Appln No. 10/760,255  
Amdt. Dated July 27, 2006  
Response to Office Action of May 11, 2006

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### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated May 11, 2006. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

#### **Amendments**

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the distinction between the present invention and the cited art. In particular, the two or more printhead IC's on each printhead module are explicitly defined as being fixed to the support member. This is described in detail at page 8, line 36 to page 9, line 7.

Accordingly, the amendment does not add any new matter.

#### **35 U.S.C. §102 - Claims 1 and 5**

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook. We submit that amended claim 1 is clearly distinguished from the cited disclosure.

The Examiner has equated the printhead assembly 10 shown in Figure 2 of '908 with the printhead modules defined by claim 1. The cover molding 28 shown in Figure 8 of '908 has been equated to the support member of claim 1. However, each cover molding 28 distributes ink to a single printhead IC only. Amended claim 1 requires the support member to provide ink to the two or more printhead IC's on the printhead assembly.

Furthermore, the printhead assembly of '908 does not include any drive electronics. Figure 8 shows the TAB film 22 that provides power and data to one printhead IC only. Each of the TAB films 22 connects to a PCB 54 (see figure 13) but '908 does not show drive electronics, such as a Print Engine Controller (PEC) chip. At best, '908 shows a connector 66 for connection to a PEC chip.

On this basis, we believe that amended claim 1 is clearly novel in light of '908. The claimed printhead assembly has one or more modules, each module with two or more printhead IC's fixedly mounted to a support member that feeds ink to the nozzles. The assembly of amended claim 1 also has removable drive electronics for one or more of the printhead IC's. These claim elements are clearly absent from the cited disclosure.

Accordingly, '908 does not teach fundamental elements of amended claim 1 or dependent claims 2 to 5.

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It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

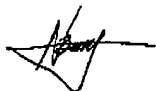
Very respectfully,

Applicants:



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